



3625

Attorney Docket No.: 9144-5

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE #7 *Elle*

In re: Application of *Brader-Araje et al.*)
Examiner: Smith, Jeffrey A.)
Serial No.: 09/549,370)
Group Art Unit: 3625)
Filed: April 13, 2000)
Date: July 11, 2003)

7-23-03

For: SYSTEMS, METHODS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCTS THAT
FACILITATE PARTICIPATION IN ONLINE AUCTIONS VIA AN
INTERMEDIARY WEB SITE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED
JUL 18 2003
GROUP 3600

Sir:

This Response to Restriction Requirement is responsive to the Office Action (the "Action") mailed July 1, 2003.

REMARKS

The Action states that restriction to one of the following species is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

- Group I: Claims 1-9;
- Group II: Claims 10-15, 28-33, 41-44 and 45-46;
- Group III: Claims 16-18, 34-36 and 47-49;
- Group IV: Claims 19-22, 37-40 and 50-53; or
- Group V: Claims 23-27.

For purposes of providing a complete reply to the Action, Applicants elect the species Group I (Claims 1-9) for prosecution on the merits. This election is made with traverse, however, because the nature of the subject matter is such that it would enable the Examiner to search the claims of Groups I, II, III, IV and V together. Moreover, Applicants respectfully

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submit that it would not create an undue hardship on the Examiner to search Groups I, II, III, IV and V together. (See M.P.E.P. § 803).

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for substantive examination, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



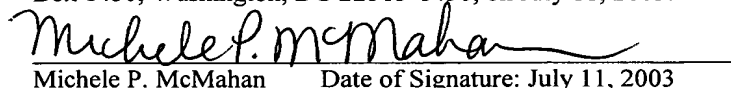
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Washington, DC 22313-1450, on July 11, 2003.


Michele P. McMahan Date of Signature: July 11, 2003